

95  
A

# WOMAN'S

*Guide to Political Action*



CIO POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE



*Since the inception of our Republic, women have been on the forefront of every progressive movement which increased and secured our Democracy. In the workers' long and bitter struggle to proclaim their rights and to gain their recognition, women have fought side by side with the men — as workers, in the women's auxiliaries, and as wives of workers. Without their participation and help our great international unions of today would not have been realized.*

*Now I call upon our women to join in another great progressive movement which must succeed if Democracy in our country is to survive and thrive. That movement is the CIO Political Action Committee, and the National Citizens PAC.*

*I make this appeal not only to the women workers in all the CIO unions, but to all women workers, organized and unorganized, as well as the wives of workers, professional women, women in business of their own, housewives, and the members of all progressive women's organizations. I urge you to join hands with us in these Committees and take an active part in the reelection of President Roosevelt and the election of a progressive Congress.*

*I know the women of America will not fail us.*

**PHILIP MURRAY**

**President, CIO**



# Sex has Nothing to do with it

96

You may have heard the Irish saying that in a democracy one man is just as good as another — if not a little better.

This seems to be true of women voters this year.

There are many (and some violent) opinions about the difference in aptitudes, attitudes and talents of men and women. But every one is willing to admit that women are equal to men in numbers. And, fortunately, at the voting polls there are no separate booths reserved for "Gentlemen" and for "Ladies." A vote is a vote — and sex has nothing to do with it.

In the forthcoming November elections women voters can and should prove not only as good as men, but a good deal more than "a little better." Here is the reason why: In 1940 women cast only 42% of the total vote. But there have been some grave changes since then. Many of our men are in the armed service. Thanks primarily to reactionary congressmen who blocked the President's effort for a Federal Soldier Vote Bill, and thanks to Governors like Governor Dewey of New York, many soldiers will not be able to vote. A number of male workers migrated to war production centers and have not yet been able to establish their voting residence. They will not be able to vote. For these reasons, we estimate that women will cast 60% of the total vote in November of 1944.

Women should take advantage of this numerical superiority at the polls. Because *women will be affected by the outcome of the forthcoming elections just as much as men.*

This handbook tells you: how many millions of women are now working, for victory, and will want to continue to work after the war, for peace; why women should get equal pay for equal work; the need of more and better child care programs



and delinquency checks; how the high cost of living can be permanently quarantined; what workers need to protect themselves against unemployment, sickness and disability; what sort of foreign policy we must pursue to prevent future wars; what sort of fascist women's organizations we must beware of in this country; and, above all, how to help prepare a better America for the men and women in the Service to come home to.

This handbook tells you why all these things depend so much on the outcome of the elections in November.

We have not prepared a "believe-it-or-not" item. Facts and ideas of political significance are presented. But they would be worthless if they did not lead to political action. This handbook shows what women can and must do to achieve the goals they are striving to attain.

Women have much to be concerned about in the future. Fortunately they have the votes with which they can help shape their future. Never before has it been so true, as it is this year, that the future of America lies in the hands of our women voters.

We hope the women of America will recognize their strength, their rights, and their responsibilities to help create a better future for themselves and the Nation.

**CIO POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE**





*Now, what shall we Talk about?*

Every election since the founding of our Nation was an important election. But some were of graver consequence than others. The election of 1800 when Jefferson ran against Aaron Burr and John Adams, Andrew Jackson's fight against the Whigs



of 1832, Lincoln's race against McClellan in 1864, the Hayes-Tilden campaign of 1876, the disastrous election of 1920, the very crucial and fortunate election of 1932, all these were milestones in our history.

But none compare in importance with the election of 1944.

It has been argued that we are so close to this election that we are lacking in the historical perspective which is needed to judge the importance of such a contest. The answer to that is that a man drowning knows his struggle is the most crucial in his life up to that moment.

If this analogy seems to you far fetched, just consider:

The outcome of the election of 1944 will have a bearing on how decisive will be our victory over the axis. The outcome of the election of 1944 will determine how secure we shall make our peace.

The election of 1944 will decide whether we shall have full employment after the war and win our war over Poverty, Illness, and Ignorance.

These and many other far-reaching issues will be determined by this election. And because the women's votes this year will be the determining factor in the outcome of the elections, women voters have a major part of the responsibility of making the decision for the Nation.

Women must assume their complete political responsibilities. They must register and vote in the forthcoming elections in unprecedented numbers. They will not vote for candidates on a personal basis — they will judge each candidate for local, state, or federal office on the basis of his experience, his abilities, his integrity of character. But most of all they will judge each candidate on his stand on basic issues affecting the welfare and the future of our people. That will involve a study of the issues. Then the voters will be in a position to vote intelligently and effectively.





## *No. 1 - Women at Work*

*Orchids for the housewife* — — Women always made up the greater part of the nation's workers — if housewives are included.

Some people entertain the silly notion that only she is a worker who gets paid for her labor by the hour, the day, the



week, or the month. Actually, among the hardest working people anywhere are the millions of housewives who must do all their own housework and family-raising. Their hours are long. They must know or learn many skills. Morning, noon and night they must cook, bake, launder, decorate, repair, mend, act as nurse and doctor in minor ailments, budget or manage the family income, stretch the income dollars as the cost of living goes up until they nearly rip, steer the children through all their changing problems, and take care of all emergencies in the home as they arise. It is a never-ending task. The cycle of making beds, washing dishes, preparing meals, spending endless hours in shopping lines is as regular as the turning of a mechanical wheel.

*The Prejudice Against Women* — — Before the war women were generally *not wanted* in industry, other than the garment and needle trade industries. They were grudgingly employed in some places. In others they were tolerated in some departments but not in the jobs requiring strength or skill. In many plants and factories they were completely excluded, excepting in offices.

Everywhere they were discriminated against. Many shops and industries were certain that women were utterly incapable of learning certain mechanical skills. Almost everywhere women were paid less for the performance of the same tasks men performed. This was as true behind the counter and in the office, where women admittedly equalled the men, as it was in the shop where they were rarely given the opportunity to prove their abilities and adaptabilities.

At that (and with housewives not counted) more women were normally employed in productive jobs than is generally known. At the height of depression, in the early '30s, when hundreds of thousands of Americans lived in Hoovervilles and millions shuffled along in search of that corner around which, according to the Great Engineer, there was prosperity — even then fully 20%



99

● All industrial, agricultural and office workers in America were women.

*Women enter industry* — — Then came the war. Millions of productive young workers were drafted. Yet many millions more were needed for war production than those drafted into the armed services. The call went out for women to take the places of the drafted men and to fill the many vacant benches of the new war plants.

Women responded splendidly.

In July 1937 there were only 10.2 million women working. By July 1940 the number rose to 13.8 million. And in July 1944 there were 17.7 million women working. *Fully one-third of all civilian employees today are women.* Not only did the number of women employed increase, but they made their appearance in work-places reserved before "for men only."

The fences of prejudice and discrimination against women workers, as against Negro workers, are being slowly torn down. In some industries the welcome sign was even hung out for them at the gate.

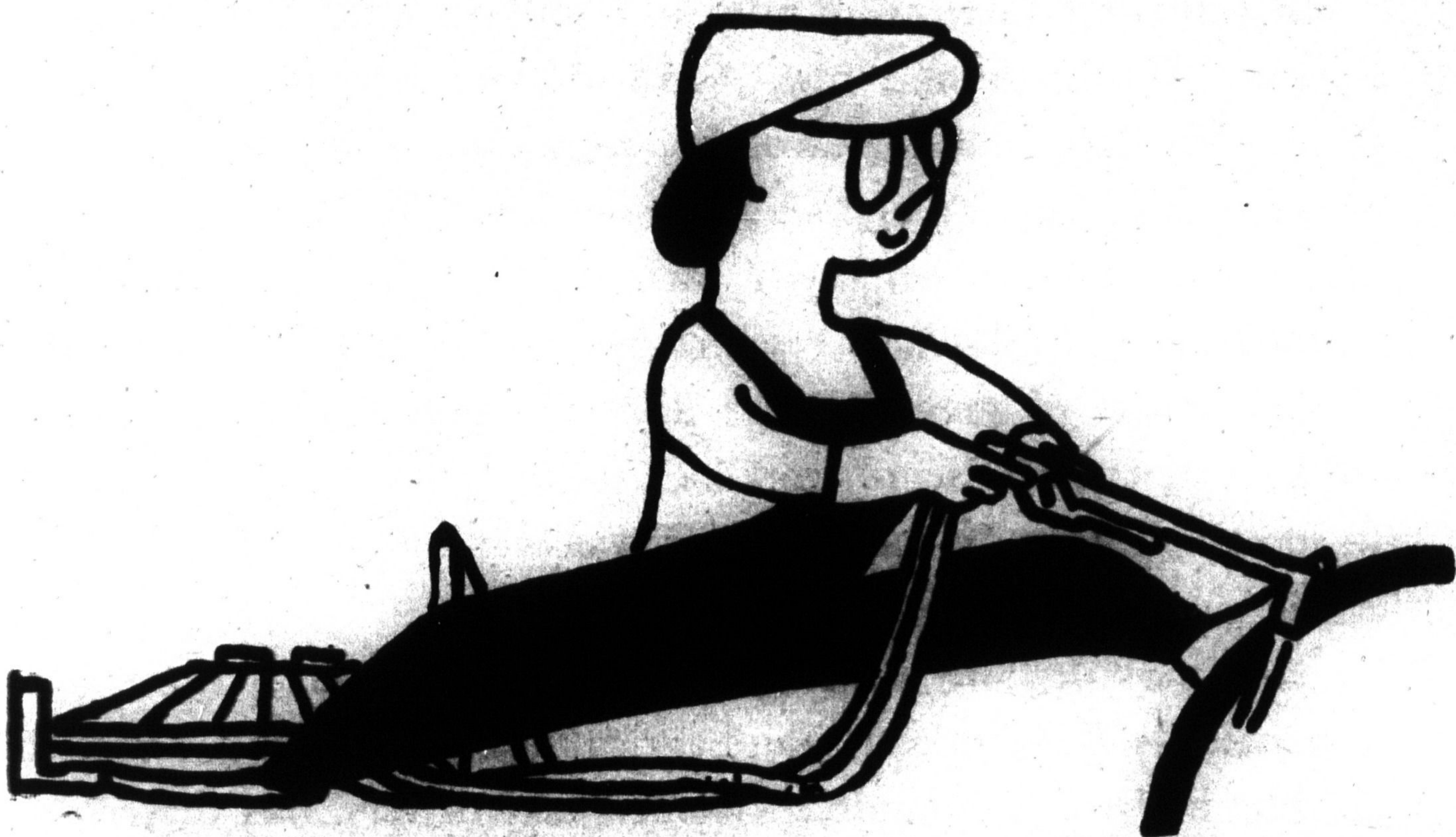
Today women are working and proving themselves efficient in practically every industrial and agricultural undertaking. There are hundreds of thousands of women taxi drivers, bus drivers, truck drivers, milk deliverers, and in literally hundreds of "unglamorous" jobs essential to serve the communities in wartime.

But the most spectacular rise in the employment of women is to be found in the essential war plants and in the heavy industries. When we sing the praises of the "man behind the man behind the gun" we often really mean the woman behind the man behind the gun.

1. Apparel and other finished products . . . . . 77.2%
2. Communications equipment and related products 58.0%



3. Textile-mill products.....	48.0%
4. Leather and leather products.....	48.2%
5. Small-arms ammunition.....	46.0%
6. Scientific instruments.....	43.3%
7. Rubber products.....	39.3%
8. Electrical equipment for industrial use.....	38.5%
9. Sighting and fire control equipment.....	38.4%
10. Ammunitions (other than small arms).....	34.2%
11. Food and kindred products.....	33.9%
12. Firearms (under .60 caliber).....	33.3%



Women work eagerly in every job, however difficult, dangerous, or disagreeable. They work in shipbuilding, in iron and steel works, in aircraft, on the railroads, in ammunition, in tank production. No one needs to tell the women workers that there is a war on — they work with zeal, knowing that what they produce will back up their men in the battle zones.

Women have proven themselves so well that in many places where they were unwanted before, they are now given preference. The call for women to enter industry in increasing numbers



153

continues. The War Manpower Commission keeps up an intensive recruiting drive to get more women to take war jobs.

Women continue to respond.

But as they gain in experience, employers and employees in factory, store and office soon find out that if women are to continue to make a great contribution as workers, special provisions and policies must be worked out for them.

*The Principle of Equal Pay* — — There are a number of reasons why women should receive equal pay for equal work:

1. It is utterly unfair to pay one worker less than another for doing the same kind of work, simply because one worker is a woman or a Negro and the other is a white male.

2. No worker can be expected to do her best if she knows that she is being treated unfairly.

3. Many working women today have families to support because their husbands are in the armed forces and they need all they can earn.

4. The cost of living has risen so fast that women workers need adequate wages to keep in good health to be able to continue to work.

5. *"Equal Pay"* is also needed as assurance to the men from industry entering the armed services — an assurance that wage standards of all workers will not be lowered by paying lower wages to women doing the same jobs.

President Roosevelt, and the War Labor Board which he created, have gone far toward establishing the "equal pay" principle. Under President Roosevelt this battle can be completely won.

*370 vexing problems* — — War or no war, work or no work, women continue to bear children. For a long time during pregnancy women can and do continue to work. But a woman who is expecting a child (and for some time after the child is born) should





be protected. A system of maternity leave with pay should be worked out. Federal and State laws must be passed to establish maternity leave as a standard practice.

In fact, not only the pregnant women, but all women who enter the heavy industries should, and can be protected by an intelligent analysis of all the available jobs, with tasks more suited to women reserved for them.

Equal pay, maternity care, and the special analysis of jobs to suit the woman worker will help reduce absenteeism, and the quit rate of women workers. But they will not eliminate them.

Nearly 40% of all women in industry have families. This means that they carry two jobs. And the problems they must face when they leave the job are more perplexing than those on the job. It is not hard work or fatigue that causes women to be absent from work or quit. But when women leave their jobs they are confronted with the problems of shopping, getting their laundry done, solving their housing difficulties, coping with transportation to and from work, attending to their dental and medical needs, and so on.

The War Manpower Commission has listed 370 community problems affecting the utilization of manpower — most of them affecting womanpower more.

The most prominent of all these vexing problems is Child Care.






## *No. 2 - When the Bough breaks*

Between  $\frac{1}{4}$  and  $\frac{1}{3}$  of all women in industry today are mothers of children under 16 years of age. The majority are the wives of men in the armed services. Their husbands and their brothers are away fighting a war. They are fighting for





the freedom and the security of their future and the future of their children.

Yet in helping to win the war, many mothers are expected to neglect and endanger those selfsame children for whom their men are fighting.

Women may not think of it quite that way. But that is the way they feel. And their feelings are quite right.

Normally a working mother makes her private arrangements for the care of her dependent children. But war production, which has drawn mothers into war jobs, has also drained away the normal supply of women who look after other women's children. That includes the paid nursemaid, the considerate relative, the friendly neighbor.

Other ways must be found to take care of the children of the working mother.

A recent report shows that about 2,500 nursery schools and child-care centers have been established throughout the United States, financed by funds under the Lanham Act, and aided by local contributions and parents' fees. The report states: "Approximately \$20,000,000 will be available for the fiscal year July 1944, to July 1945, for child-care."

The number of child-care centers now in existence is utterly insufficient. And what is much worse — they are not all of great use. They are not of great use because many are improperly located; or they are closed precisely when the mothers go to work; or the cost to the mothers for the service is too high.

*We need* — — An adequate number of child-care centers in all important war production areas; minimum standards for these centers to be set up nationally; the hours of the centers should be arranged to meet the need of the mothers in each community; the nurseries should be located in residential districts and within





easy access of the parents; proper education of the mothers in the use of these centers should be devised; the working mothers should participate in the planning and administration of the centers.

*The School-Lunch Program* — — Children of working mothers, more than any others, need a good meal at noon. If working mothers know that their children in school have had an ample and nutritive meal at noon, it would considerably lessen their care in planning and preparing the evening meal, after a day's work in the shop or factory.

We should demand a sufficient appropriation to give every school child, throughout the United States, a good lunch. They who can afford to pay should pay; the others should receive it anyway.

All humanity aside, an ill-fed child, for whatever reason, is a liability to the Nation. And we are far from willing to put any of our humanity part aside. The women of America *must* see to that. And through their votes the women of America *can* see to that.

*Children in the limelight* — — Increased production of essential war materials, child care, school lunches, and delinquency —



they seem like such unrelated topics, yet are really dependent on one another.

On April 11, 1944, Miss Katherine F. Lenroot, Chief of the Children's Bureau, reported an increase of 31% in child delinquency in 1943 over 1942. The rate for 1942 was much greater than the year before. The rate for 1944 will probably be greater than that of 1943.

"The rising rate of juvenile delinquency (one of the results of neglected children) also has its effect upon continuous employment of women," reports the War Production Board. "Juvenile delinquency has an effect not only upon the mother involved, but upon her neighbors and friends as well. \*\*\*\*Such a situation causes confusion, lowering of morale and is taking its toll of war production."

The War Production Board report reaches the conclusion that: "An extensive adequate child care program is a *must* — as a necessary adjunct to continued production of essential material."

President Roosevelt recognizes the need of a child care program as a *must*—not only to increase production but for the protection of the children. He says: (quote):

All Americans want this country to be a place where children can live in safety and grow in understanding of the part they must play in the Nation's future.

If anywhere in the country any child lacks opportunity for home life, for health protection, for education, for moral or spiritual development, the strength of the Nation and its ability to cherish and advance the principles of democracy are thereby weakened.

—Franklin D. Roosevelt





### *No. 3 - A padded Cell for HCL*

Earning a living in industrial jobs may be comparatively new to women. But spending their own or their breadwinner's earnings on the necessities of life is certainly not new to them. Nearly 85% of all family spending is made by women.



Women, therefore, know fairly well what has happened to the cost of living since the war began.

Women know that the cost of living has risen high.

They know that it is still rising.

And they know that the high cost of living can be controlled.

*Rising prices penalize the poor.* Low-income workers pay higher prices when the cost of food and clothing keeps going up and the quality keeps going down.

*Rising prices raise the cost of the war.* The burden of the cost of the war is then carried forward to fall on the returned soldier after the war.

Rising prices now, lead to unemployment after the war. Because rising prices lower the purchasing power of workers and they drain off all the savings of workers now employed.

The cost of living must be brought under control.

The high cost of living can be brought under control in three steps: Ceiling prices; Rationing; and Subsidies.

*Emergency Price Controls* — — On January 30, 1942, Congress passed the Emergency Price Control Act. Rationing came first on the list. The nation faced shortages of rubber, sugar, gasoline, fuel oil, coffee. Each item in turn was put on a ration list to which were later added canned and processed foods, cheese, meats. And later shoes were added.

How the vast rationing system was set up, and the issuance of ration books 1, 2, 3 and 4, and the blue and red change tokens, is as familiar to all of us as the Indian on the nickel.

After rationing, the General Maximum Price Regulation was issued on April 28, 1942, freezing the price of about 8,000,000 different items. Later a ceiling was put on rents.

As soon as prices were fixed, it was evident that some producers



would be unable to sell their products at the "frozen" prices without operating at a loss. It was therefore considered desirable to supplement the producers' income from consumers with payments from the government (called "subsidies") in order to keep prices stable.

This practice is nothing new. For many years the government has subsidized railroads and land-grant colleges (through land grants), newspapers (through second-class mailing privileges), banks (through government credit), corporations (through tax exemptions), to mention just a few. Now the consumer was added to the list of subsidy beneficiaries.

*Yet the very people who receive the greatest benefits from the government, and have received them for years, were the first to protest consumer subsidies.*

We must have subsidies in order to control prices fairly and keep the high cost of living from rising.

We must extend our price controls and put sharper teeth into the OPA regulations.

We must continue the rationing of goods in which we have shortages as the only democratic way to share and share alike.

We must add grade labelling to protect consumers against the deterioration of quality.

In spite of all the shortcomings of our present OPA, we know that the OPA kept prices down below those which prevailed in World War I and that is good for the people. It can be made better and more effective if it were to receive from Congress the injunction to do a better job. Congress will do this, if it receives the injunction from the people.

That, too, can be decided at the polls by women voters, if they help to elect a progressive President and a progressive Congress.





*No. 4 - Give us this day -  
Good Health*

*Who Needs the Doctor Most?* The poor man. The poorer a man is, the greater his need for medical care. And the more likely he is *not* to receive it.



105

● In the years 1935-39 the National Health Institute found that persons on relief averaged 17.4 days of illness a year. But persons with an income of \$5,000. a year or over averaged less than 6.5 days of illness.

Poor people pay a *greater percentage* of their income for medical care. In 1942, people with an income of less than \$500. a year paid out 8.2% of their income for medical care. People with an income of less than \$1,000. a year, paid out 5.1%. Whereas people with an income of over \$10,000. a year paid out only 1.4% for medical care. But the *amount* poor people can afford gets them little or inadequate medical care.

*Three Steps Forward with F. D. R.* — — When President Roosevelt came to Washington in 1933 he found our national health effort at a standstill and the nation's health seriously threatened. The poor of the cities and the rural areas had little health protection.

In 1933, less than 1/5 of all the counties in the country had a fulltime County Health Department. Since then, due to the cooperation of the New Deal Social Security program, more than 1/2 of all counties had established County Health Departments.

Industrial hygiene services were unknown in the health departments of this country before 1933. Today nearly every industrial city has such a unit staffed with trained personnel to protect the worker against industrial hazards.

Thousands of prenatal clinics have been set up since 1933. In 1937 the National Cancer Act was passed to help fight this dread disease on a national scale. In 1938 the Venereal Disease Control Act was passed to fight syphilis and gonorrhea openly and effectively. These two diseases are costliest to the nation in terms of premature death, disability, and economic waste.

These and many other measures were taken to protect the



health of the people. In addition, great progress was made in mosquito control; in providing school lunches to underprivileged children; and in many other ways to prevent illness and disease.

We have made great progress under President Roosevelt to protect the health of the nation. But now we must move forward again.

*The next step is clearly the passing of the Wagner-Murray-Dingell Bill.*

*What the Bill Proposes* — In June 1943, Senators Wagner and Murray and Representative Dingell introduced a bill in Congress which provides for a complete revision of our Social Security System.

An important feature of this Bill is the inclusion of: *medical care, hospitalization and laboratory benefits* for all the workers covered by this Bill. This would include complete insurance to about 110 million people, and offer them full medical care, every type of laboratory needs, hospitalization for 30 days per year, and it would even include glasses for those who need them. The patients would select their own doctors, their hospitals, and the bills will be paid out of the insurance.

*Who Will Pay For All This?* — We, the people, will pay for it — as we have always paid. But the method will be different.

At present we spend about 3 billion dollars a year for medical care, of which \$750,000,000 goes to doctors in fees, and the rest goes to hospitals, druggists, dentists and, alas, patent medicines. At present we pay for medical care the way we pay for drinks at the bar.

The Wagner-Murray-Dingell Bill proposes that we should pay for medical care by a payroll tax. Everybody would pay according to his income; everybody would benefit according to his medical needs.



The Bill provides for a 6% payroll deduction of employed persons subject to Social Security, and an equal amount from their employers. The money so collected will go into trust funds to pay the doctors, the hospitals, the X-ray laboratories, etc. The amount and character of medical care to which each worker will be entitled will in no way depend upon the size of his income. All persons will be entitled to complete medical coverage.

Under this Bill:

*Private practice will not be abolished* — it would actually be extended. All patients will be free to choose their own doctors. Instead of the patients paying the bills, the insurance fund will pay them.

*Benefits will not be compulsory* — no one will be forced to go to a doctor or a hospital.

*Incomes of doctors will be increased and stabilized* — instead of being erratic, as they are now. Doctors participating in this plan will be assured a higher income — and their bills will always be paid.

Patients and doctors alike stand to benefit from the bill.

*What You Can Do About It* — — It is up to you:

(a) To learn all you can about the Wagner-Murray-Dingell Bill;

(b) Talk to your neighbors and your friends about it;

(c) Work through your Union or local organization to support the Bill;

(d) Let your Congressmen know that you are in favor of the Bill;

(e) Insist that the Bill must not be shelved or buried in a committee room.

Through your votes in November, you can help elect a President and a Congress which will insure the People's Health.





## *No. 5 - Jobs for all Men and Women*

Today women are praised for their work. Today the War Manpower Commission pleads with women to take war jobs. But when the war ends, what will happen to women in industry?



Will they all want to return to their homes and their children?

According to William Haber, assistant executive director of the War Manpower Commission, only about 1½ million women will leave the labor market voluntarily when war ends.

The United Automobile Workers (CIO) made a survey of women aircraft workers and found that 85.5% wanted to continue working.

The vast majority of all women who work need the money they earn to sustain themselves or to help sustain their families. When the war is over the needs of these women will still be there.

But will there be jobs for them or fair wages?

*Listen to the Humming Reactionary* — — The Reactionaries have already made up their minds. When war ends women shall go back to domestic service or become housewives. That is where women belong, they say. And if women go back to the kitchen, they claim, our employment problem after the war will be partly solved.

For this perfectly simple solution they are really indebted to the Nazis.

But it seems quite certain that American women will not allow themselves to be relegated so helplessly to the kitchen. It is likewise quite certain that American women workers will demand of their government intelligent post-war plans to assure full employment after the war — for both men and women.

*We Can Have Full Employment* — — We know that we can have full employment after the war. The choice is not between work for women at the expense of the returned servicemen or other men. The law gives demobilized troops the right to their old jobs. Women are not in competition with either returned servicemen or other men for their jobs.

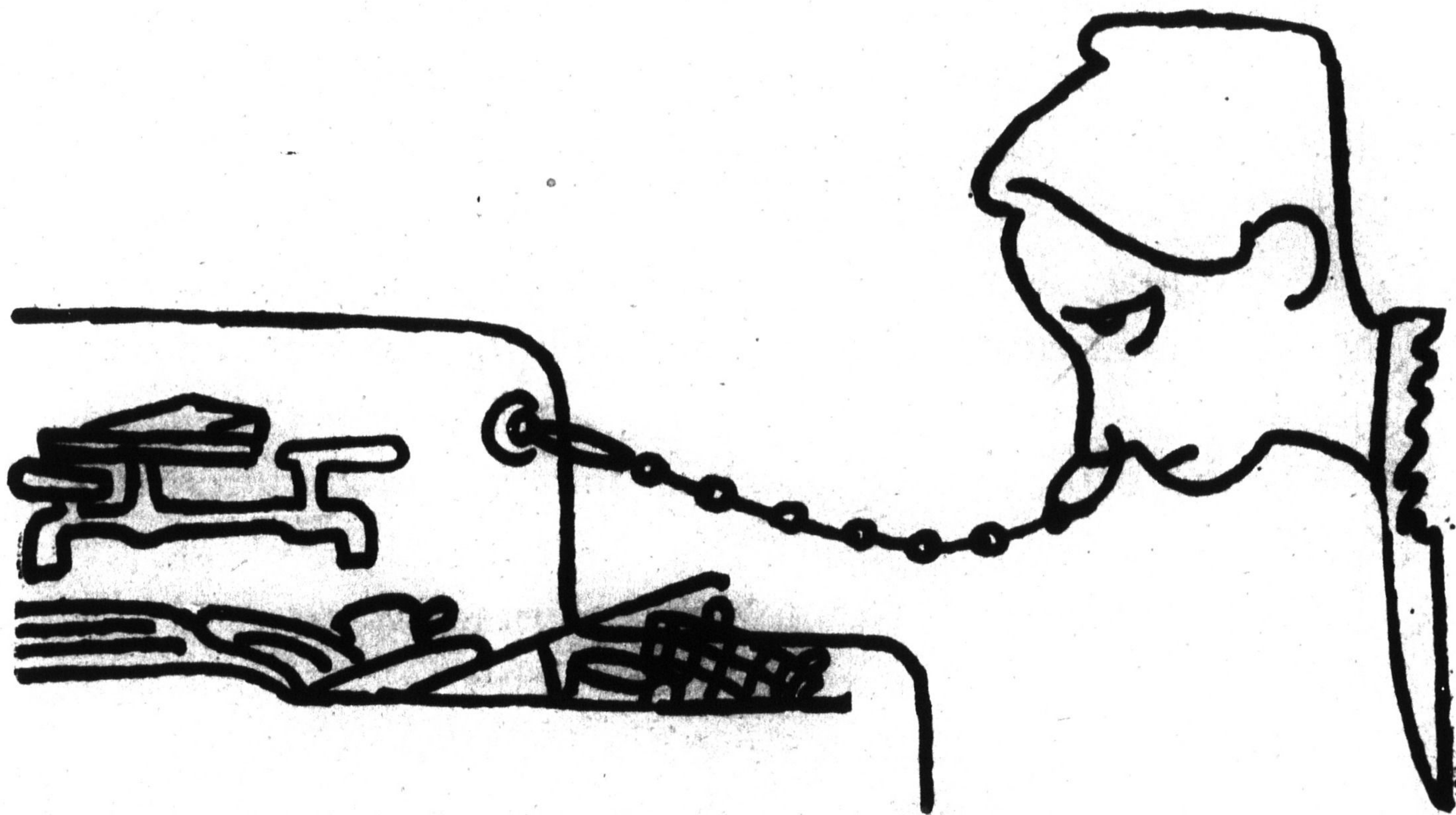
On the contrary, we know that with proper national planning



we can have so many jobs that, just as now, the "Help — — Wanted" ads would be long and the "Situations Wanted" nonexistent.

If jobs become so scarce that women must give up employment, jobs will also be scarce for men. We will be on the road to another depression — and another war.

Yet, if we have a reactionary government in Washington during the coming four years, that is precisely what we may expect. But a progressive government can and will give us full employment — with our people devoted to the building of



good homes, growing more and better food, making more clothes, building roads, and cars and recreation grounds, and more schools to learn in, and hospitals to take care of the sick — for all the people of the Nation.

(For an extensive discussion of full employment, obtain our pamphlet *Jobs for All After the War*.)

That issue of tomorrow will be decided by the voters in the November elections.





*No. 6 - Discrimination is like a  
Weather-vane*

*There Is No Returning* — — There are people whose eyes seem to be in the back of their heads. They can see and admire only the things behind them. Grandmother's cooking is the best; the



old swimming 'ole is the best swimming place; the horse and buggy is the best method of transportation; crinoline and lace, hoop skirts and patent medicine make them homesick. Many of these people also love the way our racial minorities, particularly the Negroes, were treated in the past. When the war is over, they hope to go back to the good old days, and put women in the kitchen and Negroes "in their place."

To these people we say emphatically: "Whether you like it or not, there is no returning."

We must move forward. And the first step forward is the eradication of discrimination.

It is expected of women to take a more active part in the fight to abolish discrimination, because women workers are discriminated against. They know from experience the injustice of prejudice. Though women have made great gains in the last 25 years, and most particularly since the CIO came into existence, they know how unfounded and how treacherous is discrimination. Not until it is eradicated can these gains be secure.

*The Nazi KKK* — — The Nazis have a KKK of their own, exclusively for women. It is known as *Kirche, Kuche, und Kinder*. Freely translated, it means that the place for women is in the bedroom with children and in the kitchen cooking for Fritz. Elsewhere, women are to be seen and not to be heard. And no arguments, *please!* The Nazis love their KKK dearly. That is precisely what you would expect of the Fascist mentality.

We will have none of it.

Our women are fighting and gaining equality for themselves; they must likewise fight hard to gain equality for all who do not as yet fully enjoy equality in our democracy. As Henry Wallace put it so magnificently:

"The future belongs to those who go down the line un-



ervingly for the liberal principles of both political democracy and economic democracy regardless of race, color or religion. In a political, educational, and economic sense there must be no inferior races."

*Discrimination Is Like a Weather-Vane* — — Discrimination is like a weather-vane — it points only in one direction. But it also shifts with the wind. Professor Ernest A. Hooton of Harvard University has very aptly described the danger of discrimination which may shift from group to group under the slightest pretext.

"The hatreds that arise from human competition easily shift their emotional expressions from race to nationality to economic class to religious affiliation, or to any other handy pretext whereby an ugly sentiment, a sordid motive or downright viciousness may be rationalized or whitewashed."

We shall not whitewash nor rationalize, nor allow anyone to rationalize or whitewash race discrimination.

Under the present Administration, great gains have been made to secure the political, economic, and civil equality for all of our people. Nothing has contributed more to the morale of our Negro citizens than the conscientious work of the President's Fair Employment Practice Committee. We must secure our gains and move forward to more gains.

*What Needs to Be Done* — — The first and immediate task is to assure Negro men and women in the armed services equality of treatment.

We must establish and extend the work of the President's Fair Employment Practice Committee.

We must pass a federal anti-lynching law with teeth in it.

We must abolish the poll tax in the states still requiring a payment for the right to vote.

(For a fuller discussion of discrimination obtain our pamphlet, *The Negro in 1944.*)





## *No. 7 - One World - One Humanity*

*No Place for Turtles* — — When the war is over, our foreign policy of former generations will also be over. Two oceans will no longer provide us with safety. Our geographic position will no longer make us unconquerable. Isolationism will not only be



dangerous but utterly impossible. We will no longer be able to withdraw our necks into the safety of our shells, not even if we wear Hoover collars. The isolationist ideas of the Tafts, the Hoovers, the Brickers and the Deweys spell disaster for us and the world.

To provide safety for ourselves, we must join with others to plan safety for the world.

That calls for a foreign policy which will yield the maximum benefits to our own people without detracting from the safety and well-being of other nations. It calls for an international plan to help all the underdeveloped countries to develop their natural and human resources and raise their standard of living. Only in that way can we secure and increase our own standard of living. Only in that way can we find lasting peace and safety for the U.S.A.

The reason for the need for a complete revision of our foreign policy is to be found in the fact that the world has grown perceptibly smaller in recent years.

*The Watch — Not the Rod* — — How far is it from High Point to Arlington? If you walk, it is two hours away. By bicycle it is a little over  $\frac{1}{2}$  an hour away. By automobile it is 10 minutes.

How far is it from London to New York? From Khabarovsk to San Francisco? From Ankara to Casablanca? A century ago these were distant places. After the war they will be quite near. It is nearer from Los Angeles to Boston, by airplane, than from Boston to New York, on horseback.

The watch, not the rod, is the instrument for measuring space. The nearest distance between two points is not the length of a straight line from point to point, but the time it takes to travel between them.

Our modern means of communication — the telephone, the



radio, the airplane — have made our world considerably smaller.

Our modern weapons of war have made this smaller world more inflammable and more destructible than before.

The safety of any nation on earth now depends on co-operation with all the other like-minded nations to prevent or stop aggression through the establishment of the machinery for collective security.

*Neighbors Should Be Friends* — — The closer we get to our neighbors the more we have to gain by making them our friends. There is no nation in the world today that does not aspire to become a modern nation. That implies trading, more so than ever before. Trading, in turn, implies suitable tariff regulations, shipping and airline policies, a stable monetary exchange, credits and low-interest rates to undeveloped countries, and all the other ingredients that go into the making of a good neighbor cake.

The more friends we can make the world over, the better the world will be to live in, for all of us — — and the greater our guarantee against war. To make friends of other nations, we must develop a wise and just foreign policy. Such a policy can be devised and realized by wise and experienced statesmen.

The first step toward a good foreign policy will be made at the peace-table when blueprints for the world of tomorrow will be drawn. We must make sure that we have at the peace-table men wise and experienced in foreign affairs, men who have always been for the good neighbor policy and for the improvement of the lot of the Common Man the world over, men who can plant their idealism on a solid realistic foundation.





## *No. 8 - When Johnny comes marching Home*

*We Pray Day and Night* — — Uppermost in the minds and hearts of the Nation's women are the men in the Armed Services. Sons and brothers, husbands and lovers in the many training camps



and on the far-flung battlefields occupy and dominate the awareness of the women until all else sinks into insignificance.

We long for and we worry about our men in the services with a longing and a concern nothing else can equal. We pine for war's end. We dream of the day when the bells will ring the cessation of hostilities. We pray day and night for our men to come back to us unharmed.

Unfortunately, longing and worry can play havoc with reason. And men of ill-will take advantage of this fact. When we are distressed, we are apt to listen to sly propaganda, blaming our condition on one man or another, one group or another — whether they are really to blame or not.

*Beware, the Rattlesnake* — — You know what we are driving at. The war, which has brought so much sorrow into our hearts, has been blamed on President Roosevelt, on Prime Minister Churchill, on Premier Stalin, on the "international bankers," on the Jews, on the Free-Masons, on the Catholics.

Tons and tons of propaganda of this sort arrived from abroad and was distributed in this country, spreading the lie in truth's clothing to poison our already heavy laden hearts. A great deal of that was written by master propagandists in Hitler Germany or by enemy agents or Fascist dupes in this country. This propaganda was distributed, and continues to be distributed, by people who have wrapped themselves in the American flag — some of them in high public office.

We urge you to read *Black Mail* by Henry Hoke and find out for yourself what sort of propaganda is being perpetrated on us right now, in 1944, and who are the perpetrators.

*We Have a Job to Do* — — Every woman with a star in her window and a star in her heart must join every other American woman to cleanse this Nation of the perfumed slime and powdered



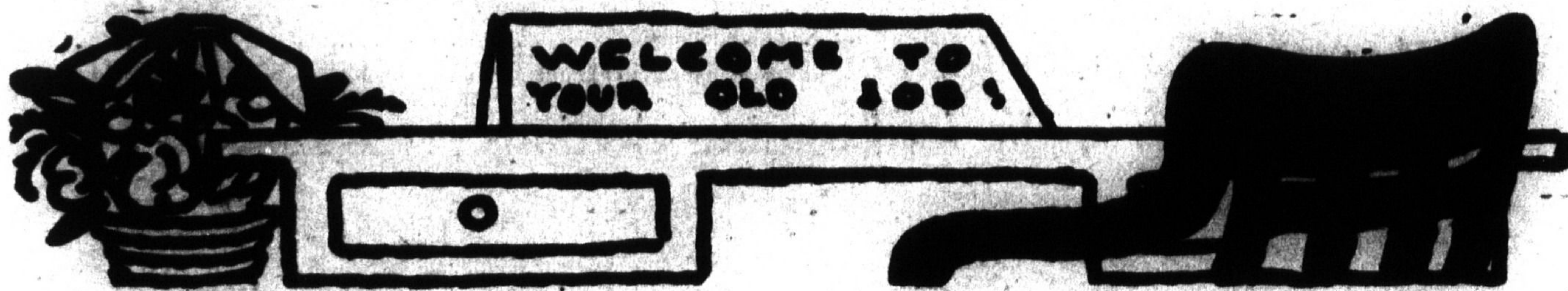
filth spread by enemies of the people. First, we must learn the facts. We must know the faces of those who try to place the bloody crimes of Fascism on the doorsteps of Democracy and who try to plant the deeds of Hitler and Hirohito on the Roosevelt desk.

We, of the CIO Political Action Committee, may be accused of being partisan. We are partisan. We are unswervingly against Fascism no matter where it rears its head, whether it appears in the editorials of the *Chicago Tribune*, the *Washington Times-Herald*, the *New York News*, or in the speeches of Gerald K. Smith, Merwin K. Hart, Margaret Lille-Cummings, and dozens of others who pour out tons of literature through many organizations cloaked in "Americanism," the "Constitution," and the "Bible."


These are the newspapers and these are the people who support Dewey and Bricker wholeheartedly in the present elections. They support them *because they know* that Dewey and Bricker and Taft and all the rest of the people around Dewey-Bricker are their kind.

While the men fight on the battlefronts to defeat the enemies of Democracy, the women voters must guard and help secure the home front. For if we win the war on the battlefronts, and lose it at home to the "soft-peace-damn-Roosevelt" gang, we shall have no peace, but a waiting period until the next war.

*Prepare for the Homecoming* — — We are fighting for a good cause. We are fighting to destroy greed and corruption, prejudice and barbarism. We are fighting to defeat the enemies of the people. We, the people, will win over our common enemies. Of that we are confident.







When war ends we will have another difficult job — to secure the peace. And one of the most important strands in the rope that will anchor us in a safe harbor will be the proper rehabilitation of the demobilized servicemen and women.

The women of America should take the lead *now* in planning and in supporting legislation for the proper rehabilitation of the returned soldier and sailor, wac and wave. The wounded should be given every facility and care to get well. Those whose education was interrupted by the war should be allowed to go back and complete their studies at government expense. Those who can and wish to return to work should be given first claim to available jobs. They and their families should be given every aid and every protection.

We will not succeed in our rehabilitation plans, if anything is planned for the returned servicemen and women at the expense of other people — at the expense of women workers and others at home who backed the attack in field and factory and who did all they could to perform what has often been called “a miracle of production” to help win the war.

The minute we begin to plan to help the returned men and women at the expense of others — the job will not be done right. Women must lead in the planning for the rehabilitation of the returned men through full employment at fair wages for all who can and want to work. (A discussion of how we can attain full employment after the war will be found in our pamphlet, *Jobs for All After the War*.)

Full employment and the proper treatment of our returned servicemen and women will depend on the kind of government we will have when war ends.

That, too, is matter for political action which will be decided by women voters in the forthcoming elections.





### *No. 9 - Sutter, Stutter & Benge*

Women must be on the lookout for the fascists in this country who advance behind the screen of women's organizations cloaked in ample American flags, yet hiding in their folds the scorpion swastikas.



There are a number of such women's organizations who go by many sentimental names — but their motives are all the same: they are all out for disunity, race hatred, class hatred, group hatred.

The *Loyal American Mothers*, run by Mrs. Katherine Sutter, is one of these disloyal organizations. Their members are against everything, excepting intolerance. Oh, yes! They are also for the *American Mothers*, which is presided over by Mrs. Beatrice Knowels. The *American Mothers* have a real mission in life. They are out to do away with rationing, price control, and the teaching of tolerance in the public schools.

Much more ambitious are *We, the Mothers, Mobilize for America*. The members of this organization, presided over by Mrs. Lyrl C. Van Hyning (does not quite rhyme with Goering), are out for really big game. They are after the British, the Russians, Roosevelt, and "the international bankers."

The *Mothers of Sons Forum* members, managed by Lucinda Bengé, are great worriers. They worry about the motives of our Allies, particularly the Russians.

Then there is the *National Blue Star Mothers of America*, whose members are not even remotely related to the bona fide Blue Star Mothers — and they are certainly not "national." That leaves them with their hatred of England, Russia, Jews, the President of United States, the United Nations. But they also have their loves. They just love Mrs. Dilling and Gerald K. Smith.

The *Mothers and Daughters of Pennsylvania*, like the other groups, are isolationists, haters of all progressive movements and measures.

These and similar groups are not large. But they are nasty. They work quietly, sometimes separately, and often collectively. To anyone who would listen to them, they are ready to tell how



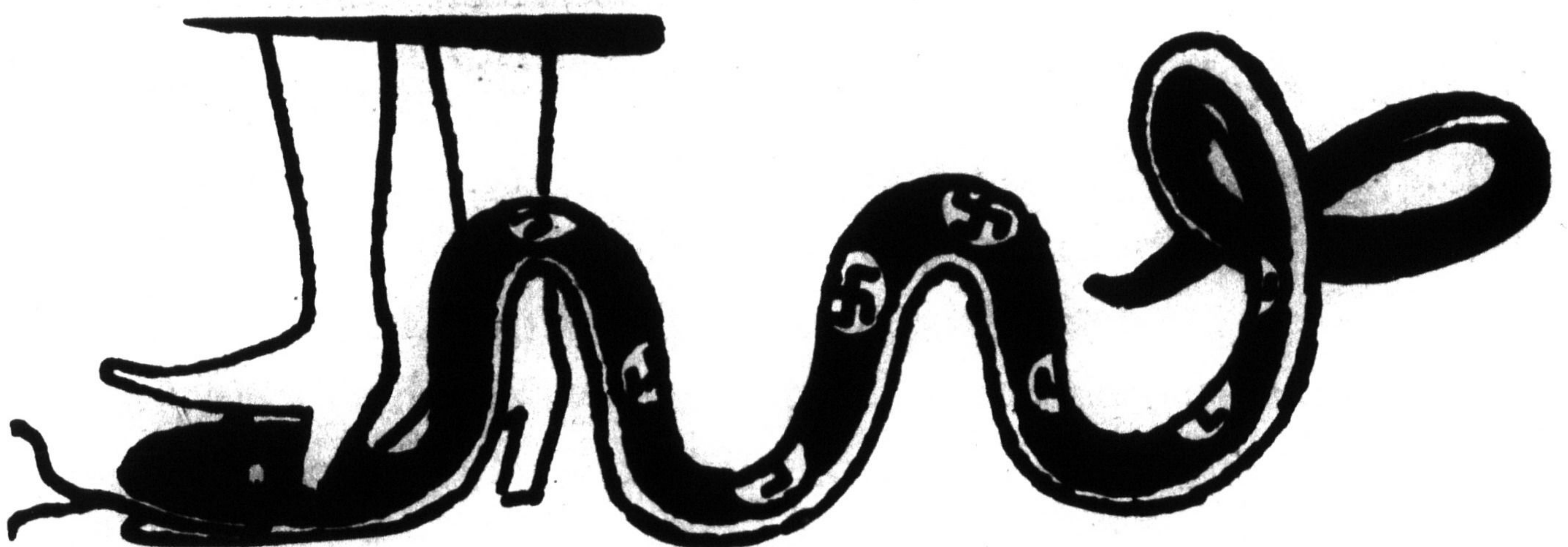
Imperialistic Britain is and that this is Britain's war, not ours; that Russia is becoming too powerful and we are fighting for Russia's interests; that Roosevelt provoked the Japanese and therefore really is responsible for Pearl Harbor; that we really ought to have *Peace Now*, a negotiated peace, if you please. And not too hard on the Hitlerites, please. They spread rumors against the War Bond Drives; and, naturally, they are against the Daughters of the American Revolution and Parent-Teachers Association. They are particularly against the League of Women Voters.

Though they are none too bright, they know what organized women voters can do to *them*.

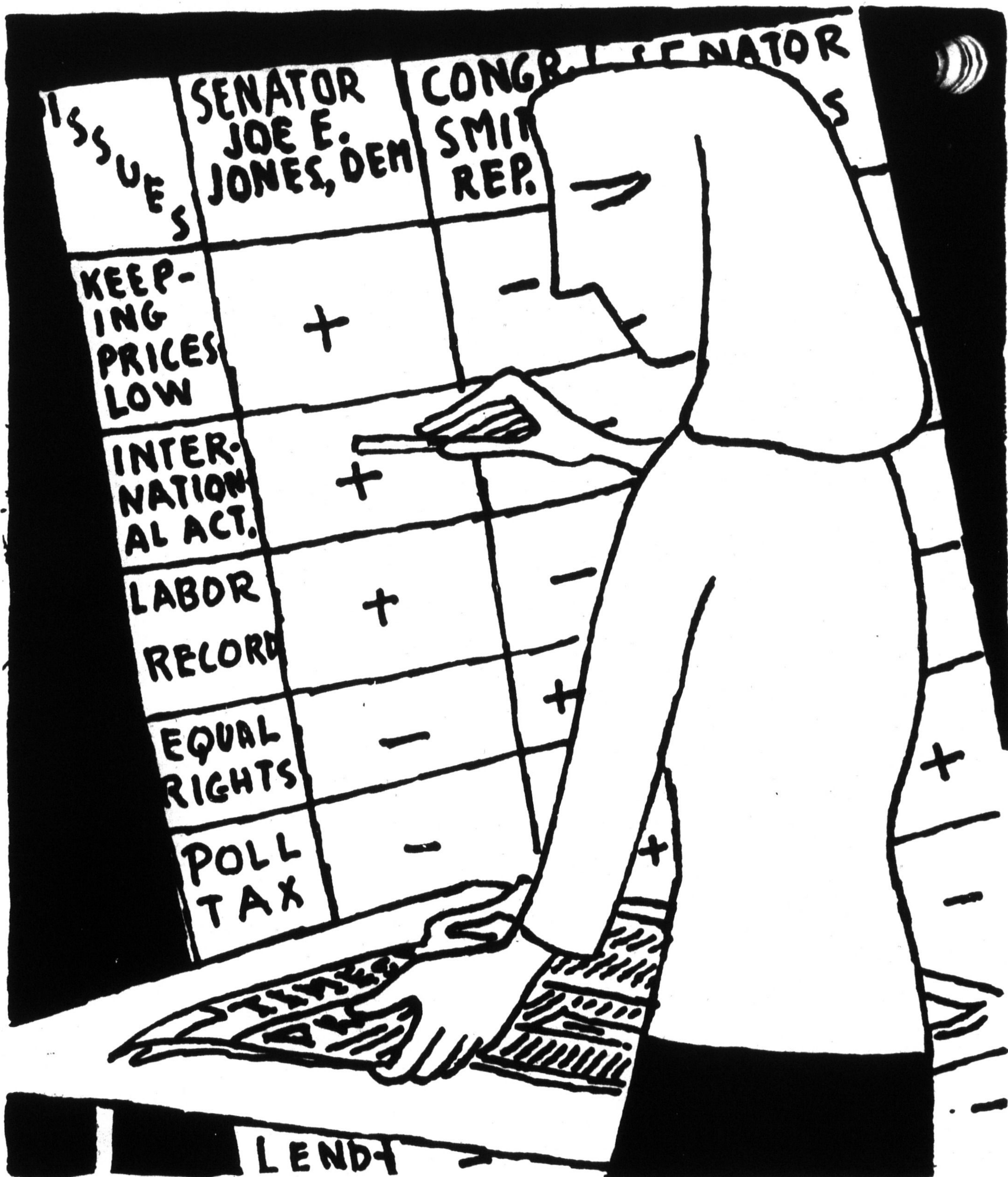
It is up to the women voters of America to see to it that these organizations and their fascist instigators are not allowed to take root in American soil. These organizations are solidly behind Dewey and more particularly Bricker. In the Republican Vice-Presidential candidate they recognize a friend of all their ideas.

These organizations and their instigators are bitterly anti-Roosevelt. The reelection of Roosevelt, supported by a progressive Congress, they know, spells death to their organizations and their fascist plottings.

It is, therefore, up to all women who are against fascism at home as they are against fascism abroad, to unite with church, truly patriotic or civic organizations, to rout these groups into the open — and to defeat them through the reelection of Roosevelt.







## No. 10 - The People's Movement

*The CIO and Women's Rights* — — Few of the non-union women now in industry or the professions realize how much they are indebted to organized labor in general and the CIO in particular. Had there been no unions, what wages would they be receiving and what hours would they be working?



The CIO, from the start, urged greater employment of women, and at equal pay for equal work. And from the start it fought for fair wages and not starvation wages.

The CIO promoted and supported legislation to protect the health and increase the safety of workers, with special provisions for women workers.

The CIO fought hard first for the establishment and then for the continuation of the OPA to protect workers and consumers.

The CIO supported legislation for adequate child-care programs.

The CIO fought against the discrimination in the employment of married women; it fought for the child labor provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act; for a Federal Soldier Ballot; for a grade labelling provision in the Price Control Act; as, in fact, it fought for every progressive piece of legislation to help low-income people, the protection of children, and equal rights for women.

The CIO has been in the forefront in the demand for a program to assure full employment after the war to women who entered industry before or since Pearl Harbor.


The CIO has led and is leading the fight to assure Negro women workers the same rights accorded other women or men who work. It deplores the attitude of those who can see Negro workers only in cooks' aprons or maids' dresses.

The CIO leads the fight for increased allotments to servicemen's wives and their families.

*The CIO PAC* — — The CIO was first to recognize that labor's rights cannot be fought out in union meetings alone — — that labor must participate in Political Action.

That accounts for the birth of the *CIO Political Action Committee*.





The CIO Political Action Committee, organized in 1943, is not a political *party*. The PAC is an organization dedicated to the task of educating the people to use their votes or political strength for the protection of their rights and interests.

From the start, the CIO PAC received the support of many non-union and non-labor groups and organizations. The support rallied around the CIO PAC soon assumed the aspects of a popular people's movement.

This resulted in the formation of *The National Citizens' PAC*. *The National Citizens' PAC* -- The National Citizens' Political Action Committee, organized in June 1944, is dedicated to the same task as the CIO PAC, but on a much broader base. Its primary objective this year is to reelect President Roosevelt and elect a progressive Congress. The Committee is too large to list here. On its executive board one finds the "Grand Old Man" George Norris; James Loeb, Executive Secretary of the Union for Democratic Action; James G. McGill, President, McGill Manufacturing Co.; Elmer Benson, former Governor of Minnesota; Philip Murray, President of the CIO; Sidney Hillman, Chairman of the CIO PAC; Miss Freda Kirchwey, Editor of *The Nation*; Miss Lucy Randolph Mason, well-known Southern liberal; Mrs. Verda W. Barnes, Director, Women's Division, CIO PAC; etc.

The Executive Committee agrees upon policy and programs which are carried out through church organizations, community organizations, pamphlets, newspaper ads, billboards, the radio, movies, speakers and every other available communication method.

Since these media are costly, and since the Committee has no funds, its work depends entirely on voluntary contributions from progressive minded people.

Every truly people's movement depends on the people for moral, practical and financial support.





## *What Every Woman should Know and Do*

Every woman voter should know the score.

Every adult woman should know that almost everything she does or plans to do — as a worker, as a consumer, as a housewife,



as a mother, as the wife or mother of a serviceman or woman is directly or indirectly affected by the kind of government we have. The seat of our government is as much in her kitchen and in her parlor as in Washington, D. C.

Therefore, every woman voter should understand the main political issues. She should know the gains made by women, how those gains were made, who are her friends in Congress and out of Congress, and who leads the reactionary forces against equal pay for equal work, against funds for school lunches, against subsidies that will help keep the high cost of living down, against rationing and price control which are the democratic tools to see to it that all the people share and share alike in times of scarcity, and against all other legislation designed to help the Common Man.

Every woman voter should know the record of her Congressman.

Every woman voter should know the facts in the forthcoming Presidential elections.

Every woman voter should know why the Political Action Committee was organized as a truly People's Movement.

*To Know Is Not Enough* — — Every woman voter should join with some active group in her community and help secure gains made and fight for new gains. She should join the PAC organization in her community. Or a church group interested in child-care, delinquency, or other problems. She should volunteer to serve on local Rationing Boards and help fight the Black Market. If she is a member of a union, she should work with her union and participate in its political action program. She should help her neighbors and other people understand the issues. *She should help other women to register and vote in the November elections.* *We Are for You* — — If you need literature — If you want us



117  
to help you with radio programs, speakers, information, facts — —  
Write to us, and we will try to help you.

Remember, the CIO Political Action Committee and the National Citizens' Political Action Committee are just what we already said they are: A People's Movement to help educate the people in political action.

Whether you are a worker, housewife, in a business of your own — —

Whether you are a Democrat, Republican, or Non-Partisan Leaguer — we will help you.

Because we are convinced that all fair-minded Americans, if given the facts on any issue affecting all the people, will act according to the dictates of their conscience and for the best interests of the Nation.

Drawings by Bernarda Bryson





## *You Should Read*

There are many books, pamphlets, bulletins, and leaflets which the voters of America should read with care before the elections this year. We recommend in particular: **THAT MAN IN THE WHITE HOUSE** by Frank Kingdon (Arco Publishing Co., New York, \$1); **BLACK MAIL** by Henry Hoke (Reader's Book Service, Inc., New York, \$1); and for women who lead groups, **A POLITICAL HANDBOOK FOR WOMEN** by Eve Garrette (Doubleday Doran & Co., New York, \$2).



118  
And, of course, we want you to obtain and read our own publications.

The PEOPLE'S PROGRAM for 1944 should be read by every voter, regardless of political affiliation. This 40-page pamphlet sets forth the practical legislative objectives for the next four years as seen by the CIO PAC.

We have also prepared three large handbooks containing the facts voters should know before they vote in November. The first of these is, A WOMAN'S GUIDE TO POLITICAL ACTION. The second, the SPEAKER'S MANUAL, presents authentic, up-to-the-minute facts and figures on: Jobs for All After the War; The Cost of Living; Registration and Voting; Taxation and Inflation; Achievements under the Roosevelt Administration; The Farmer's Stake in the Future; The Negro and the CIO; Our Foreign Trade; The CIO And Its Record; and a resumé of the CIO PAC Program for 1944. The third, the RADIO HANDBOOK, deals with freedom of the air, what rights people have to radio air, and how workers can get their side of any issue presented over the radio. It also tells why and how every union local should organize a radio committee to present programs or to applaud radio programs they like and protest those that are unfair to labor.

You should also have THIS IS YOUR AMERICA. It is 32 pages long illustrated with magnificent photographs; and it tells in the simplest terms what America means to all of us, and what we must do to help build a better America and a better world for ourselves, our children, and all the common people.

You should have as well, JOBS FOR ALL AFTER THE WAR and THE NEGRO IN 1944.



# National Political Action Committee, C.I.O.

205 E. 42ND STREET, NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

SIDNEY HILLMAN, *chairman*; R. J. THOMAS, *secretary*; VAN A. BITTNER, *vice-chairman*; ALBERT J. FITZGERALD; DAVID J. MC DONALD; SHERMAN H. DALRYMPLE; EMIL RIEVE; C. B. BALDWIN, *assistant chairman*.

## REGIONAL OFFICES

